GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5274
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2001
VISIT OF FOREIGNERS IN THE COUNTRY
ARUN KUMAR;GANTA SRINIVASA RAO;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item regarding Order on foreigners appearing in the `Hindustan Times` dated May 27, 2001.

(b) if so, whether a large number of foreign visitors are visiting India without the clearance from the Home Ministry;

(c) if so, the facts in the this regard;

(d) whether lack of proper coordination between his ministry and the Ministry of External Ministry has put the foreign visitors to great inconvenience;

(e) whether there has been an adverse reaction of the order amongst Non-Resident Indians, their hosts and relatives in our country;

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(g) the immediate corrective steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (C.H. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): All foreign nationals except Nepaliese and Bhutanese are required to be in possession of valid visa issued by Indian Mission abroad. In most of the cases Government of India has delegated powers to Indian Missions to issue visa without requiring Ministry of Home Affairs clearance.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g): Yes, Sir. The public criticism led to the review of Foreigners (Report to Police) Order, 1971. The revised Order has been issued on 7.8.2001. The revised Order cast a duty on every person to notify the nearest police station, within 24 hours, about the presence of the foreigners in his premises if he has reason to believe that such foreigner has entered the country without valid travel documents or has overstayed.